

AMMONITES LAEVIGATA LAMARCK, 1822; PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS TOGETHER WITH THE VALIDATION OF TWO NOMINAL SPECIES NAMED AMMONITES LAEVIGATA BY J. DE C. SOWERBY, 1827. Z.N.(S.) 1203

By D. T. Donovan (*Bristol*) and C. W. Wright (*London*)

The specific name *Ammonites laevigata* was published by Lamarck (1822 : 637). It was applied to a fossil in his collection for which no locality or geological horizon was recorded. A brief description was given, in Latin and French, but no illustration was included. To the best of the writers' knowledge the name has not been employed by any later author of systematic descriptions or revisions of ammonites, and in their opinion it is impossible to determine, from Lamarck's description, to which of the many hundred ammonite species now recognised his name *Ammonites laevigata* should be applied.¹ Search for type material has not been made for only confusion would be caused if this name were brought into use now.

2. James de C. Sowerby in 1827 (: 93, pl. 549, fig. 1) described and figured the species *Ammonites laevigatus* from the Gault (Cretaceous) of Crockerton, near Warminster, Wilts. In the same work, later in the same year (: 135, pl. 570, fig. 3) he described and figured a different ammonite species as *Ammonites laevigatus*, based on a specimen from the Lias (Jurassic) near Lyme Regis, Dorset. There is no evidence that either species was identified with Lamarck's species referred to in para. 1, and both species have always been attributed to Sowerby.

3. Sowerby was not in the habit of using the same specific name more than once in a particular genus, and his reason for doing so in this case was clearly that, shortly after the part of his monograph in which he described the Gault *Ammonites laevigatus* was published, he re-identified the figured specimen as *Ammonites Selliquinus* Brongniart (in Cuvier and Brongniart), for this name was substituted for *Ammonites laevigatus* (: 93) in the "Corrections and Observations" to the whole volume. Being bound by no Rules of Nomenclature, Sowerby felt free to use the superseded name *Ammonites laevigatus* for another species, and did so on page 135 of his work. According to the present Rules, however, if it were not for Lamarck's *Ammonites laevigatus*, Sowerby's earlier *Ammonites laevigatus* (from the Gault) would be a valid name, but the later *Ammonites laevigatus* to be published (the Liassic one) would fall as a junior homonym of the earlier.

4. D'Orbigny (1850 : 225) proposed the new name *Ammonites Davidsoni* for *Ammonites laevigatus* Sowerby, 1827, pl. 570, fig. 3 (d'Orbigny cited fig. 6 in error). The name has never been correctly applied. It was rejected by Oppel, the author of the first general work on the European Lias (1856 : 81-82)

¹Oppel (1856 : 82) stated that *Ammonites laevigatus* Lamarck was synonymous with *Ammonites Lewesiensis* Mantell, 1822, from the English Chalk, but he was not dealing systematically with either species. Sharpe (1853-55) who monographed English Chalk cephalopods, does not mention Lamarck's species.